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Dear Commissioners,

During the agenda item on Suicide Prevention, Emily Nahat, Chief of the Prevention and Early Intervention Section in DMH, will present for your input a brief overview of the enclosed draft "Recommendations of the Suicide Prevention Plan Advisory Committee (SPPAC) to the California Department of Mental Health." The Commission received a presentation on the draft recommendations in September 2007 and you will recognize most of the recommendations from that earlier version. Since that time, the narrative sections, complete with extensive research citations, have been developed.

This document is available on the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) website for public input through January 25, 2008. The SPPAC will have a final meeting on February 28 to discuss OAC and public stakeholder input and to complete its work. The SPPAC recommendations will form the basis for the ***California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention*** to be developed and submitted by DMH and the Health and Human Services Agency to the Governor by May 1, 2008.

Emily will also highlight the section of the document titled "Next Steps" (pages 49-52) that describes the activities that the SPPAC recommends for the first phase of implementation. This part of the presentation will provide an opportunity for the Commission to have its first discussion about the priorities for the State-Administered Suicide Prevention Project, slated for funding at \$14 million per year for four years (including \$4 million per year directed to the Student Mental Health Initiative).

Commissioner and Assembly Member Mary Hayashi has been an active member of the SPPAC and provided leadership in this forum, among many others, on suicide prevention.